

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Telecommunications Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TTF CG) was held on November 12, 2003. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Jane Lawton OCA (240) 777-3724
Carlton Gilbert M-NCPPC (301) 495-7693
Pat Hanehan MCPS (301) 279-3609
David Niblock DPS (240) 777-6252
Steve Batterden DPW&T (240) 777-6063

STAFF

Margie Williams OCA (240) 777-3762
Robert Hunnicutt CTC (410) 964-5700
Kamal Johari CTC (410) 964-5700

OTHER ATTENDEES

Steven Weber T-Mobile
Erik Johnston Foresite Group for Cingular Interactive

Discussion Item – Meeting Minutes: Pat Hanehan moved the minutes be approved as written. Steve Batterden seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Discussion Item – OMB Representative Notes: Marjorie Williams noted that Melanie Coffin was unable to attend the meeting but had voted to recommend all agenda items.

Discussion Item – Proposed 2004 Meeting Schedule: Jane Lawton reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the first six months of 2004. No objections were noted to the schedule, and it was approved.

Consent Agenda:

1. T-Mobile application to install nine 72" antennas at the 137' level of an existing PEPCO 230 KV transmission line tower #175-S located at 17000 Oak Hill Road in Silver Spring (Application #200311-02).

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the consent agenda application be recommended. Pat Hanehan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Cingular Interactive application to install one 5' omni-directional antenna on the penthouse wall at the 70' level of the Postal Service Training Facility located at 10130 Democracy Boulevard in Potomac (Application #200311-01).

Kamal Johari summarized the application, and noted that Cingular Interactive has acquired Bell South sites in the County. He noted that the TTF CG had reviewed some of those sites in 1997 and 1998. He reported that this service is licensed by the FCC as specialized mobile radio services operating close to the 900 MHz bandwidth, and there should be no conflict with the County's public safety radio services operating in the lower 800 MHz bandwidth.

Bob Hunnicutt introduced Erik Johnston, from the Foresite Group, to give a brief presentation on Cingular Interactive services.

Mr. Johnston explained that the Foresite Group handles permitting, siting, and design aspects of Cingular Interactive's service. He stated that Cingular Interactive provides wireless data services, such as e-mail service for Blackberry handheld devices. He noted that Cingular Interactive is not interested in developing a complete network to serve Montgomery County, and only establishes a site upon request. He noted that this site was established at the request of the United States Postal Service for its Bolger Center in Potomac. He stated that the Bolger Center is also a conference center available for public use as well as other government agencies.

Jane Lawton asked how many other sites Cingular Interactive has in the County. Mr. Johnston replied that there are six or seven sites operating in the I-495/I-270 corridor. He added that the Bolger Center site was established primarily for additional capacity to serve conference attendees. Mr. Johari added that wireless data base stations cover an area of similar size to that provided by cellular services –roughly a one-mile radius.

Pat Hanehan noted that there were three other providers already at this site, and asked if there were any health hazards for workers on the roof of this building. Mr. Johari stated that normally a carrier will conduct a radio frequency emissions study once the new site is activated, and if necessary, the carrier will post signs warning workers accessing the roof of RF emissions hazards. Mr. Johnston confirmed that was the case with this site, and noted that once the site is activated, Cingular Interactive will conduct an RF emissions study.

Carlton Gilbert asked if the equipment cabinet would be on the roof of the building. Mr. Johnston replied that the equipment would be placed inside the penthouse.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Discussion Item – Year-End Summary: Jane Lawton asked Bob Hunnicutt to bring the tower application statistics to the next meeting, emphasizing the work that had been reviewed in 2003, since it would be the last meeting of the year.

Discussion Item – Antennas on the Executive Office Building: Steve Batterden commented that Cingular Wireless had contacted him about locating antennas on the Executive Office Building (EOB), and asked if anyone knew why there were no cellular attachments on its roof.

Bob Hunnicutt replied that he recalled that, in the past, the County Facilities Department had concerns that installing equipment on the roof may cause damage to the protective membrane covering the roof. He added that the steel structure on the roof of the EOB was originally placed there by the cable television operator to support its microwave antennas, which are no longer in use. He noted that the County has antennas on the EOB roof as well, and that if a carrier wanted to place antennas on the EOB, the application would be reviewed by the City of Rockville, which has zoning authority for that building.

He said the 51 Monroe building, although lower than the EOB, had many antennas on the roof, and thought it may be because carriers could not use the EOB.

Discussion Item – Structures in Municipalities: Jane Lawton asked Marjorie Williams to prepare an updated request to municipalities to advise the Tower Coordinator of new tower facilities that have been located in their jurisdictions, so they may be added to the TTF CG database. Bob Hunnicutt noted he had not heard from any municipality in quite some time. He also suggested the letter be revised to request a listing of tower facilities currently located in the jurisdictions to facilitate co-location with other carriers.

The next meeting of the TTF CG is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room #225 of the COB.